

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Kerry saved many lives when he was fighting in Vietnam and saved even more by protesting a war that we later learned was ill conceived. The war in Iraq seems even worse in it's conception and execution. Those who support this war will be remembered among those who wrongly supported the actions in Vietnam if they proceed with the decision to air such slanted views.

Thank you,
R. B. Clinefelter